

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 FEAE-00 FMC-01 DOTE-00 /046 W

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R 131006Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSEPS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BE, ELAB

SUBJECT: THREATENED STRIKES IN PETROLEUM AND MARITIME SECTORS

REF: BRUSSELS 0081

1. STRIKE IN PETROLEUM SECTOR (REFTEL) NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JANUARY 20 FOLLOWING FAILURE OF FINAL CONCILIATION EFFORT BY GOVERNMENT JANUARY 8. BOTH SOCIALIST AND CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS (FGTB AND CSC) FILED JOINT STRIKE NOTICE WHICH COULD EFFECT SOME 5,000 WORKERS. EMPLOYERS CONTINUED ADHERE TO FOUR PER CENT GUIDELINE IN FINAL CONCILIATION SESSION. UNION SOURCE TOLD US JANUARY 8 UNLESS EMPLOYERS GO ABOVE FOUR PER CENT, STRIKE CERTAIN TO BE HELD. FURTHER CONCILIATION EFFORTS MAY BE SCHEDULED IN NEXT TEN DAYS.

2. STRIKE NOTICE HAS ALSO BEEN FILED BY CSC AND FGTB ON BEHALF OF ALL EMPLOYEES IN MARITIME SECTOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 15. THIS SECTOR REPORTEDLY EMPLOYS SOME 12,000 WORKERS MOSTLY IN WHITE-COLLAR POSITIONS. STRIKE HAS NO SCHEDULED TIME LIMIT AND IF SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED COULD EVENTUALLY BRING PORT OPERATIONS TO STAND STILL.

3. ACCORDING TO JEAN PIERRE GRAFE, MINLABOR CALIFICE IS CURRENTLY ILL AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY HE MAY BE REPLACED AS MINLABOR FOR

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HEALTH REASONS. HE HAD THROAT OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER AND PROBLEM

SEEMS TO BE RECURRING.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SOLUTION MAY STILL BE FOUND FOR PETROLEUM
AND MARITIME SECTORS TO PREVENT STRIKES OR LIMIT THEIR DURATION,
ABSENCE OF MINLABOR AT THIS CRUCIAL PERIOD MAKES GOVERNMENT'S JOB
MORE DIFFICULT PARTICULARLY SINCE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY MEDIATORY
ROLE IN LABOR DISPUTES OF THIS KIND. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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